



Roseannearchy: Dispatches from the Nut Farm

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BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND TELEVISION STAR ROSEANNE BARR IS BACK—WITH A VENGEANCE—AND THE RESULT IS ROSEANNEARCHY.

Roseanne Barr is a force of nature. Whether taking the sitcom world by storm, challenging accepted social norms, or battling the wild pigs inhabiting her nut farm in Hawaii, she is not to be trifled with. In this return to the printed page, Roseanne unleashes her razor-sharp observations on hypocrisy, hubris, and self-perpetuating institutions of questionable value—as well as menopause, pharmaceuticals, and her grandkids. And she's as controversial, original, and funny as ever.

Raised half-Jewish, half-Mormon, and 100 percent misfit, Roseanne made a deal with Satan early on as the price she paid for stardom. But now she's looking to refinance the loan of her soul—this book represents her final exorcism of fame.

Displaying her brilliance and sharp wit, Roseanne discusses the humor of everyday life with musings on more serious topics, such as class warfare, feminism, the cult of celebrity, and Kabbalah. Bold, brash, and insightful, *Roseannarchy* shows that she can still skewer any subject under the sun and why The New York Times describes her appeal as “the power of a whole planet, pulling everything around it inexorably into its orbit.”

Roseannarchy: Dispatches from the Nut Farm Details

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From Reader Review Roseannarchy: Dispatches from the Nut Farm for online ebook

Pat Buzby says

After numerous attempts, I finally got picked to be in the audience of the Oprah show. Until we were walking in the studio we still did not know what the show topic of the day would be. It was Roseanne and when we left we got a free copy of the book. When I sat in my seat, at first I groaned, because I was angry with Roseanne for leaving the stage of the Wizard of Oz in Madison Square Garden a dozen years ago and then was on a talk show the next morning looking well. I had spent a lot of money to take my family to see her in that role and I didn't think she was really ill. My expectations were low, but she really surprised me and was the Roseanne I always loved from the past. As a fellow head nut (girl scout version), the book is pure Roseanne. You can hear her voice as you read. Roseanne may be a little wacky, that's why we love her, but she is a lot of other things, I was surprised at how smart she is and how religious as well. Growing up Jewish in Utah must have been totally confusing. Then trying to find herself. A marriage, kids and her comedy... Fame, second and third marriages...surgeries...Zift...Kabbalah...O.J...you name it-all touched on in a not very long book. Not a pulitzer prize nominee, but a slice of life to enjoy on a rainy weekend.

Anna says

I love Roseann Barr and was anxious to read this book. It started out well but could have used a better editor. Parts of the book were very well-written but others were much too long. A shorter, better edited book would have gotten a much better review.

Hafidha says

Roseanne is a human tornado - powerful and messy! This book is a bit overlong, but the first third - chapters on her childhood - are almost breathtaking in terms of storytelling, and the pieces, "Left of Center in Denver," (about the long hard road of leftist community activist) is kind of a must-read if you've ever been involved in a subculture that struggles to reconcile the dream (Everyone Will Be Like Us One Day!) with reality (Striving Together is Really Fucking Hard). I also enjoyed "Flattery Will Get You Everywhere," about her co-dependent marriage to Tom Arnold and the horrible National Anthem incident. I found the essays on marriage and her general rants to be more sloppy, but when she talks about her kids that is super interesting. The last half dozen pieces take a real spiritual bend, and I didn't always understand them, but they are fast reads. Roseanne is brilliant and I am in awe of her genius. I can definitely see how difficult she would be to deal with in person, but unlike many people she is actually committed to growing and becoming a wiser human being. The book is worth a read, at least for the parts I mentioned. And if you have experienced mental illness or are close to people in your life who are brilliant AND mad, you might find this a bit edifying.

13: To anybody who asks me who I think I am to tell political bigwigs, captains of industry, and religious honchos where to get off, I answer: Who do I *have* to be?

pg. 18: Instead of knocking myself out trying to understand or rationalize a bunch of holidays (holy days?)

with their symbolism and oh-so-deep, arcane significance, I'm a little less quick to chase that merry-go-round and more apt to just dig the seasons and the real turning points in the year, which are less about myth and interpretation and more about *real* signposts on our trip around the sun. Why believe a bunch of Bronze Age stuff we can't prove when we have dependable occurrences to believe in, like the summer solstice - the day with the most light and the least dark? No believing required, nothing to argue about. Or the vernal (spring) and autumnal equinoxes - the balance of day and night - perfect, predictable, and plenty spiritual *and* scientific for me. I guess we were all pagans back then - observing, accepting, and respecting the natural world - and that wasn't such a bad thing.

Ciara says

probably more like two & a half stars. when jared saw the cover, he said, "wasn't there some scandal some years back about roseanne shooting off assault rifles?" i replied, "i think you may be making a mistake i make all the time, & confusing roseanne with my mom."

reading this book was A LOT like stumbling across my mom's blog or getting a crazy e-mail from her (before i blocked her e-mail address). the difference is that my mom is not jewish, & roseanne is & talks about it constantly. the other difference is that roseanne talks a lot about various celebrities she knows, like shelley winters or sandra bernhard, while my mom prefers to regale people with lengthy, non-sensical stories about the guys that hang around the townie bar in bowling green, ohio. other than these few differences, they're more or less the same person.

as such, i found the book kind of difficult to read, but sickeningly compelling. it made almost no sense. she'd spend forty pages writing about how important it is for everyone to be kind to one another, & then forty pages writing about how the most important aspect of humor is telling the truth & the truth is usually mean. one second she'd be writing about her daughter's wedding & suddenly she'd turn around & start writing about the lengthy conversations she used to have with god as a child. one minute she'd be writing about her hawaiian macadamia nut farm being colonized by feral pigs, & suddenly she'd be detailing exactly how she wound up in a mental institution after breaking it off with tom arnold. parts of the book were really interesting--especially her experience volunteering at a feminist bookstore & being part of the feminist collective that published "big mama rag," one of the most influential of the many feminist newspapers that proliferated in the 1970s. she went into a lot of detail about the factional divisions within the collective & tied it into a salient critique of the factional divisions that tend to tear apart most radical communities. & then she'd go back to writing about how she made a deal with satan in order to become rich & famous.

in terms of loose ends, narrative structure, & coherence, this book is a bit of a slog. it might have gone down more easily with the aid of some fermented spirits. but it was also like a good fermented spirit in that i'm glad i tried it at least once.

Carrie says

If you're not a Roseanne fan, this probably isn't the book for you. I really appreciate how well her voice comes through while reading, it's essentially like having Roseanne deliver a monologue for 284 pages. I'm hard pressed to succinctly describe what this book is about. Basically it's Roseanne writing about a variety of topics, from her childhood to her views on politics. None of it's surprising, particularly if you've already seen

"Roseanne's Nuts," but I still really enjoyed this read.

Martin says

I wish I could have given this book a three-and-a-half star rating but there was no way I was going to give it four, no matter how much I loved parts of it. Roseanne's previous autobiography, "My Lives" (1994) has an average rating of 3.49 and "Roseannarchy" only has a 3.29 but I think this is a much better (or less crazy & bridge-burning) look at herself. She certainly has done a lot of work on herself since her previous book, as evidenced by the foreword by first husband Bill Pentland, who even reads his bit for the audiobook. Her second bio trashed him and most of the producers on her sitcom, so this time she saves most of her resentment for Tom Arnold, though she blames herself as much as him for her craziness during the early '90s, and she is quite amusing when discussing Arnold's quest for fame. Roseanne does need someone to edit her, however, as some of the chapters seem self-indulgent or overreaching. She also apologizes for airing her family's dirty laundry and her poor choices of words in the early '90s, and then proceeds to criticize some of her children's spouses --oops! My favorite chapter details the tedium of growing up in Utah and playing dolls with brainwashed girls, when Roseanne would say "When playing Barbie dolls with the other Mormon girls I would get so bored with the inevitable dating and wedding planning storylines that were the subject of every play date that I would say 'Why don't we play a game where Barbie parachutes behind enemy lines to save the Jews?'" Relegated to playing with a Ken doll, she continues, "I tried to give Ken some balls by having him say, 'Barbie, why don't you and I parachute behind enemy lines and save some Jews from the Nazis before our wedding?'" But the Mormon girls would just ignore Ken and emasculate him by telling me to shut up." Her command of language can be quite stunning, as in the previous example whereby Ken, whose primary signifier in popular culture is that he has no genitalia, is further emasculated by the girls who buy into the notion that a woman's greatest feat is landing a man. Everybody loses! Roseanne is particularly adept at pointing out contradiction and irony, especially when describing the left going crazy after Reagan became president. She describes the blooming of a multiracial feminist collect in Denver that soon becomes mired in identity politics. "You haven't lived till you've heard a man with breasts tell you how her decision to keep her penis is a feminist issue." Overall, I was impressed with how extremely well-read she is, and how visionary in her choice of projects post "Roseanne". She feels that what she tried to do with her daytime and late night shows have been aped by cable television and "which proves the old saying, 'Imitation is the sincerest form of show business.'" She also believes that one of the reasons she had so many cosmetic surgeries was to get painkillers, which is pretty awesome. The book often outwears its welcome, and certain chapters feel aimless or unable to live up to their ambition, but the parts that work are quite brilliant and imminently quotable.

Angela Holtz says

This book made me laugh, cry, think and pee my pants. ;) Really it was full of insight not just in her own life, but in the world. She warns you not to take it too seriously and you can sometimes glean when she is making a joke.

I have a new-found respect for this woman because she takes responsibility for a lot of mistakes she made in life, not just the horrible version of the national anthem she sang, but her marriages, saying horrible things about her parents and even having children. She constantly jokes about her kids hounding her for money and that she doesn't like them much, but she makes the point that she isn't a very good mother and had she known

then what she does now she wouldn't have become a mother in the first place.

She does however love her grandsons, her family, and her current boyfriend. However, she is unapologetic about who she is now, and old jewish woman. Kind of refreshing that she has thrown off all the bullshit and is just being herself. I wish I had that chutzpah.

Erin says

Kindle for iPhone

I am a huge fan of "Roseanne" and not as much of an admirer of Roseanne, and this book reinforces that distinction. However, I must confess that I became interested in the book after seeing Roseanne on Oprah, and she seemed so together and witty, I thought she must have mellowed with age (she describes herself, both on Oprah and in the book, as an old lady, which is quite surprising, considering that she's only in her fifties, I presume), but, alas, she's still filled with her own importance. It's a shame, really, because she has some insights worth exploring, but most readers won't be interested after having to Wade through pages of name-dropping, self-love and unfocused rants to get there. Spend your time watching some old episodes of the show instead (just not those from the final season).

Daniel says

"Roseannarchy is my attempt to weave my own revolutionary code into the mind of the reader."

Roseanne is my hero: a fat crazy Jewish mystic radical socialist feminist self-proclaimed fierce working-class domestic goddess. I was in the middle of reading this book when Roseanne came out in support of the Occupy Wall Street movement, dressed New Left guerilla-chic, proposing that everyone in a higher income bracket face the guillotine or put in a reeducation camp. This is when I fell in love!

I finished this book and now I'm wading through the 9 seasons of her groundbreaking television show. I watched it as a child, but never got the full weight of how profoundly working class and feminist it was. Roseanne is a longtime radical, having cut her standup teeth while also working at a radical feminist collective bookstore called Woman to Woman.

It was the story of Woman to Woman, where Roseanne became deeply embedded in a bulwark of feminist struggle for justice that I thought was most intriguing about the book. At the peak of that particular wave of radical feminism in the 80s, Roseanne offers a glimpse of the Reagan counterrevolution that I hadn't previously understood. The manufactured scarcity of social program resources caused local services to become overwhelmed and then shut down. Fractious infighting blossomed as people fought for the scraps left over and the people who relied on social services could no longer support revolutionary projects with as much fervor.

Roseanne seems to have consistently landed on the side of justice, favoring an interracial and revolutionary socialist feminism. Others spun off into priveleged new age paganism, single-issue identity neocolonialism (e.g. queer bookstores with no books about feminism or revolution), and refusing to acknowledge racial injustice within the movement. But Roseanne kept it as real as she could in a failing collective as the waves

of counterrevolution spread from top to bottom. Sometimes Roseanne is stupid: though she engages with the white supremacy inherited from the culture at large, and comes around to admitting it, she takes a couple of transphobic pot shot jokes with no such self-criticism. But she is definitely real, and in these pages, she seems like a comrade who is familiar with struggle.

The book is a little over 10 hours long. The section on Women to Women books, made up about 25 minutes, or about 5% of the book. In my opinion, it was so good that it carries the rest of the book, and makes up about 80% of my recollection. There is certainly a lot more in there, especially about Judaism ("All of the holidays were about who killed our people, when and where, and what kind of food goes with each of those massacres."), grandmotherly love, personal spirituality, and politics ("Democracy is based on female freedom. Silencing old loudmouth pushy women is the first thing a smart despot tries to do.").

Lucky for us, Roseanne is coming back into public life, writing, appearing on TV, even perhaps running for president (???). I'm so excited. At the height of her popularity, Roseanne used her pulpit of a primetime show to do amazing things, showing the only honest working class family on television, for one. And from this perspective, Roseanne is incredulous that others don't do similarly envelope-pushing things. She can't stand Oprah's milquetoast bookclub: "Hey Oprah, tell your fans to read Das Kapital by Karl Marx. Talk about a good, relevant read. Oprah has never done one show on economics or capitalism, and that pisses me off. Not one show on how television advertising (which made Oprah a billionaire) makes money by keeping people in front of their TV sets while the guys at the top rob 'em blind! Are we supposed to ignore the elephant in the room? That yes, we need more socialism and less banksterism here in America?"

Kdooley says

I really like Roseanne Barr. I think she's entertaining and witty. I enjoy her twitter feed, and I don't think all of her ideas are totally out there. That said, this book is terrible. You can only read it in chunks or else your mind starts to revolt from the lack of decent editing (both self-editing from Barr and professional editing). It kind of reads as though you're having a conversation with someone who is utterly stoned. I am going to just pretend I didn't read this book.

Jen from Quebec :0) says

I LOVE Roseanne....her sitcom was simply amazing- it showed a REAL family enduring REAL life, with a lower income, generic brands of food, job losses, etc. As a 'poor kid' I appreciated the hell out of her for creating this show that made me feel more normal. So, I bought the book. It...definitely had some great ideas and moments in it, but MAN this book was all over the place, imo. It needed some editing or a different structure. However, the parts that were good were very good.

Sara says

Definitely amusing, especially if you're a Roseanne fan.

Kate Woods Walker says

I like this broad. I like what she has to say. And I like the way she says it.

My S.O. commented several times, as I laughed my way through Roseanne's latest, that he hadn't seen me enjoy a book so much as this one. Not only is it devastatingly funny, this series of essays and reminiscences is wise, challenging and has just the right amount of devilishness.

Although Roseanne is right about almost everything, I can't agree with her disdain for perfumes and smellums. (I'm woman on a quest to re-create the scent of a 1970s head shop on her person and in her home.) If not for that, I'd be enlisting in Gen. Barr's Truth Army at the drop of a beret. Maybe she can use me in the outlying provinces.

Sarah says

i loved this book. i picked it up after being amusing and befuddled by some of her twitter posts. she is a prolific twitterer for sure. has a lot to say about politics and generally strikes me as an extremely intelligent, well read woman who likely has ADHD in addition to the many psychiatric diagnoses she labels herself with. she has a hyperbolic humour style which i find hysterically funny. it reminds me most of john waters, just completely over the top. she's obviously a talented comic and i associate that with being a very astute observer and having a great gift for analysis of situations. i think she's really sharp.

having said all that i enjoyed the book so much i hate to criticize anything but she can ramble and at times is not at all logical sometimes. she's had an interesting life; clearly she makes no apologies for her scathing views of american politics and the entertainment industry.

this is pretty much the opposite of most 'content lite' celebrity books; she covers a ton of stuff; it's almost overwhelming. love her!

John B. says

Roseanne Barr is my biological mother, and I can prove this because she hates cats.

Barr picks up a ton of steam once you hit chapter 10, "Left Of Center In Denver". She provides recipes for garlic bread, peace of mind, raising grandchildren post-menopausal, humor, lokshn (noodles), et al.

The best thing I learned about her life was her experience guest-editing the first (and only) women's issue of The New Yorker, which featured Amy Sedaris, among others. She signed Judd Apatow and Joss Whedon to write for her television show. She ran a non-profit for women's rights in Denver, and sang "...'Satisfaction' by The Stones at three times the speed they did, and changed the words to be about menstruation and Chernobyl" at CBGB. She recommended Henry Miller's, Under The Roofs Of Paris, which I'll read soon, and taught me some wonderful, new French.

Golden! moments:

"...slutwear is America's burka."

Drink recipe: Belvedere Martini, filthy, 3 olives

"Baby let Me tell you: In the entertainment world, like you said, the breasts may be fake, but the assholes are

real."
